(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IFCI has requested for debarring of one of the prospective bidders on account of default in payment obligations. The Ministry's existing Guidelines for Disqualification of Bidders, do not list default with respect to repayment obligations by itself as a reason for disqualification.

Disinvestment process

2544. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India must push reforms, says IMF", which appeared in the Times of India, dated the 28th November, 2002;

(b) whether present reform and disinvestment process are being done at the directive of IMF; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. There does not appear to be such a news-item in the Times of India, dated the 28th November, 2002. However, such a news-item has appeared in the Times of India, dated 28th September, 2002.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy on disinvestment has evolved over a decade in response to the changing economic scenario and the emergent need to put national assets to optimal use and to unleash the productive potential inherent in public-sector enterprises.

Post-closure adjustment claim

2545. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Zuari Maroc Pvt. Ltd. the strategic partner of Paradeep Phosphates has filed a post-closure adjustment claim of Rs. 151.55 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to entertain the claim; and

(c) the price for which the company was disinvested?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Financial bids had been invited in February 2002 on the basis of the audited accounts of Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) as on 31.3.2001. The Share Purchase Agreement signed with M/s Zuari Maroc Phosphates Pvt. Ltd. (ZMPPL) on 28.2.2002 *inter-alia* provides for post-closure adjustment to cover changes in the Company's Net Asset amount between 31.3.2001 and the closing date. Since the Company continued to incur losses during the period 31.3.2001 to 28.2.2002, ZMPPL has filed the claim. The Department of Fertilizers is scrutinizing the claim.

(c) The Government has divested its 74% equity held in PPL to ZMPPL for Rs. 151.70 crores.

Synthetic milk

2546. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "No check on sale of synthetic milk in Ghaziabad areas", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 26th October, 2002;

(b) whether out of 14 cases where adulterated milk was found, no FIR has been lodged and out of 131 samples collected in the year 2000 only 82 samples have been taken, so far, in this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to curb the malpractice of synthetic milk throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) The samples are being collected from time to time and raids are also conducted as and when necessary. Total milk samples collected from January 2002 to November 2002 is 91.